

Agency for International Development

719.271-6

with the latter's list of additional sources;

(j) As appropriate, referring small business concerns, including small minority business enterprises, to SDB for information and advice;

(k) Promoting increased awareness by the technical staff of the availability of small business concerns;

(l) Making available to SDB copies of solicitations when requested;

(m) Assisting SDB in counseling non-responsive or non-responsible small business bidders/offerors to help them to participate more effectively in future solicitations; and

(n) Including the Small Business and Minority Business Enterprises Subcontracting Program clauses in all contracts where required by part 19 of the FAR.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996; 62 FR 40468, July 29, 1997]

719.271-4 Heads of contracting activities.

In order for the agency small business program to be effective, the active support of top management is required. The heads of the contracting activities shall be responsible for:

(a) Rendering decisions in cases resulting from non-acceptances by their contracting officers of set-aside recommendations made by SDB;

(b) Consulting with SDB in establishing small business and minority business enterprise award goals, where practicable and desirable; and

(c) Advising cognizant technical officers of their responsibilities as set forth in 719.271-5.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996]

719.271-5 Cognizant technical officers.

Since the procurement process starts with the establishment of a requirement, the actions of the cognizant technical officers can affect the opportunity of small business to participate equitably; therefore, each cognizant technical officer shall, during the formulation of activities which will require contractual implementation:

(a) Consult with SDB on the availability and capabilities of small business firms to permit making a ten-

tative set-aside determination where appropriate; and

(b) Provide sufficient procurement lead time in the activity implementation schedule to allow potential small business participation.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996]

719.271-6 Small business screening procedure.

(a) *General.* All USAID/Washington proposed contract actions in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold shall be screened by SDB, with the exception of:

(1) Class set-asides and those unilaterally set-aside by contracting officers (719.271-3(f));

(2) Those where the contracting officer certifies in writing that the public exigency will not permit the delay incident to screening (719.271-7(b));

(3) "Institution building" contracts (contracts for development of a counterpart capability in the host country) with educational or nonprofit institutions; or collaborative assistance contracts pursuant to AIDAR 715.370-2.

(4) Those involving the payment of tuition and fees for participant training at academic institutions; and

(5) Personal services contract requirements (see 719.270).

(b) *Preparation of Form USAID 1410-14 (the Small Business/Minority Business Enterprise Procurement Review Form).* (1) The contracting officer shall prepare the subject form in an original and 3 copies and forward the original and 2 copies to SDB within one working day of receipt by the contracting activity of a procurement requisition.

(2) The contracting officer will attach to his/her transmittal a complete copy of the procurement request and a copy of the recommended source list as furnished by the technical office and supplemented by him/her.

(3) The contracting officer shall complete blocks 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, and 10 (when appropriate) prior to submittal to SDB.

(c) *Screening of Form USAID 1410-14 by SDB.* (1) SDB will screen the contracting officer's recommendations on set-aside potential, small business subcontracting opportunities, and section 8(a) subcontracting, and furnish him/her with either a written concurrence

in his/her recommendations or written counter-recommendations on the original and duplicate copy within five working days from receipt of the form from the contracting officer.

(2) SDB will complete Blocks 1, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12 (when appropriate) prior to returning the screened form to the contracting officer.

(d) *Concurrence or rejection procedure.*

(1) The contracting officer shall complete Block 13 upon receipt of the original and duplicate copy of the screened form from SDB.

(2) If the contracting officer rejects the SDB counter-recommendation, he/she shall return the original and duplicate forms with his/her written reasons for rejection to SDB within two working days.

(3) Upon receipt of the contracting officer's rejection, SDB may: (i) accept, or (ii) appeal, the rejection. In the case of acceptance of the contracting officer's rejection, SDB shall annotate Block 14 when it renders a decision and return the original form to the contracting officer within two working days.

(e) *Appeal procedure.* (1) When informal efforts fail to resolve the set-aside disagreement between the contracting officer and SDB, the latter official may appeal the contracting officer's decision to the head of the contracting activity. Such an appeal will be made within five working days after receipt of the contracting officer's rejection.

(2) In the case of an appeal, SDB will send the original and duplicate form, with the appeal noted in Block 14, directly to the head of the contracting activity with its written reasons for appealing. The contracting officer will be notified of SDB's appeal by means of a copy of the written reasons for appealing.

(3) The head of the contracting activity shall render a decision on the appeal (complete Block 15) within three working days after receipt of same and return the original to SDB and the duplicate to the contracting officer.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 21058, June 4, 1987; 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996; 62 FR 40468, July 29, 1997; 64 FR 42042, Aug. 3, 1999]

719.271-7 Reports on procurement actions that are exempted from screening.

(a) *Unilateral and class set-asides.* The contracting officer shall prepare Form USAID 1410-14 as stated in 719.271-6, but forward only the duplicate copy with the documentation required by Block 5 of the form to SDB. The original will be filed in the contract file.

(1) If, upon review of the material submitted under 719.271-7(a) above, SDB concludes that it would be practicable to accomplish all or a portion of the procurement involved under section 8(a) subcontracting, it shall so advise the contracting officer in writing within five days after receipt of such material.

(2) Such advice shall be considered a counter-recommendation and shall be processed in accordance with 719.271-6 (d) and (e).

(b) *Public exigency exemption.* The contracting officer shall prepare Form USAID 1410-14 as stated in 719.271-6, but forward only the duplicate copy with the documentation required by Block 5 of the form to SDB. In addition to the documentation called for in 719.271-6, the contracting officer shall furnish a copy of his/her written determination exempting the procurement from screening. The determination shall cite the pertinent facts which led to his/her decision. This exemption is not intended to be used as substitute for good procurement planning and lead-time; SDB will report abuses of this exemption to the head of the contracting activity for appropriate action in accordance with 719.271-4(c).

(c) *Institution building contract (IBC) exemption.* The contracting officer shall prepare Form USAID 1410-14 as stated in 719.271-6, but forward only the duplicate copy with the documentation required by Block 5 of the form to SDB.

(d) *Personal services contract exemption.* Preparation of Form USAID 1410-14 is not required for personal services contracts.

719.272 Small disadvantaged business policies.

In addition to the requirements in FAR part 19, part 726 provides for contracting and subcontracting with small